(*b*) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of gruel centres for weavers and how many persons are fed daily in each centre?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) All the gruel centres in the State except the one in the City of Madras were closed by 31st December 1953 on account of the improvement in the seasonal conditions. The gruel centre for the migrant weavers at Madras will also be closed by 31st March 1954.

" (*b*) The expenditure incurred on the maintenance of gruel centres for weavers from the date of their starting up to the date of their closure was about Rs. 14·2 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 4,400 was spent up to 15th February 1954 in maintaining the gruel centre in the City of Madras which was opened for the relief of migrant weavers. This gruel centre now feeds about 250 persons daily."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் இந்தக் கஞ்சித் தொட்டிகளை பார்வையிட்டிருக்கிறாரா? ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் எத்தனை ஔன்ஸ் கஞ்சி தரப்படுகிறது? இப்பொழுது கோடைகாலம் ஆரம்பித்து விட்டபடியால் நெசவாளர்களுடைய துயரமும் மிக அதிகமாகிவிட்டது. ஆகவே கஞ்சித் தொட்டிகளில் கொஞ்சம் அதிகமாக கஞ்சி வழங்க சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமா? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir. I inspected the Care Camp which was opened recently at Melpakkam. There, not only kanji but a square meal is also given. At the end of this month, the gruel centre here will be closed and the migrants may be taken over to that camp."

Fair price shops run by Harijans in the City of Madras.

* 372 *Q*.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Harijans gave up the running of fair price shops in the City of Madras;

(*b*) the reasons therefor;

(*c*) whether they are given any assistance or permits to conduct alternative business;

(*d*) whether their security deposits have been returned to them; and

(*e*) how many Harijans are still running fair price shops in the City?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 22 (twenty-two).

" (*b*) Eleven shops were given up due to poor sales, six shops due to loss in business, four shops due to private reasons not specifically mentioned by the shop-keepers and one shop due to poor health of the shop-keeper.

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" (*c*) No. The Government have not taken action in this regard as no representations have been received by them for any assistance from the dealers;

" (*d*) The security deposits have been refunded to six Harijan dealers. The refund for the remaining (16) dealers will be made on receipt of their applications after verifying whether the period of six months from the closure of the business is over as per agreement executed by them.

" (*e*) 24 (twenty-four)."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" அரிசிக் கடைகளை நடத்திய ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய கடைகளின் லைசென்ஸ் எவ்வளவு வாபஸ் வாங்கப்பட்டது? வேறு புது லைசென்ஸ்கள் வழங்கவேண்டுமென்று எத்தனை பேர் மனுச் செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்? அவர்களது மனுக்களைக் கவனிக்காததற்கு வேறு ஏதாவது காரணங்கள் உண்டா?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I have already stated in answer to clause (*c*) of the question that no representations have been received by the Government for any assistance from the dealers."

Revision of the scale of pay of warders in jails.

* 373 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any memorandum has been received from the staff of the jails, such as warders regarding their pay and allowances; and

(*b*) what action the Government propose to take on the memorandum?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) & (*b*) In 1953, the warder staff of certain jails represented to the Inspector-General of Prisons their grievances regarding their pay, allowances, etc. The request for barber and dhoby allowance was refused. The question of the revision of the scale of pay is under consideration along with the recommendation of the Jail Rèforms Committee, in this regard."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" இது சம்பந்தமாக இன்னும் முடிவு எடுப்பதற்கு எவ்வளவு காலம் ஆகும்? ஏதாவது முடிவு அவ் விஷயத்தில் ஏற்பட்டால் உடனே காரியாம்சத்தில் எடுத்துக்கொள்வதற்கு இந்த பட்ஜெட்டில் தொகை ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்வார்களா?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Sir, because it involves financial commitment, it will take some time. We also should understand that along with the revision of scales of pay of these officers, the scales of pay of people in other departments will have to be considered."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact that when Congressmen and Congress Leaders were in jail, they were promising the warders